

Claims

Sub a17

1. A file system for organizing recorded items of program content, comprising:

5 a memory having a data structure for storing the location of a recorded item of program content in association with at least one electronic program guide attribute selected from the group consisting of: program title identifier, program category, broadcasting network, date of broadcast, time of broadcast, actors, and director;

10 an interface for receiving electronic program guide attribute information about a specific item of program content to be stored;

a file write mechanism that automatically stores said electronic program guide attribute information about said item of program content to be stored in said data structure, and

15 a file read mechanism that ascertains the storage location of a recorded item of program content based on said at least one electronic program guide attribute accessed from said data structure.

2. The file system of claim 1 further comprising a natural language dialog system that interacts with said file read mechanism for
20 supplying electronic program guide attribute inquiries to said read mechanism based on spoken requests of a user.

3. The file system of claim 1 wherein said data structure further includes at least one user data attribute in association with said location of a recorded item of program content.

5 4. The file system of claim 3 wherein said user data attribute stores a record of when the item of program content was viewed by a user.

10 5. The file system of claim 3 wherein said user data attribute stores at least one user-defined index that identifies a user-defined location within a recorded item.

15 6. The file system of claim 3 further comprising storage system maintenance system that selectively erases previously recorded items of program content based at least in part upon said user data attribute.

20 7. The file system of claim 1 wherein said interface for receiving electronic program guide information comprises an internet access system capable of accessing at least one internet-based provider of electronic program guide information.

8. The file system of claim 1 wherein said interface for receiving electronic program guide information comprises a tuner for retrieving electronic program guide information from a supplier of ~~program content~~

5

9. A system for recording program content comprising a storage medium for storing at least one item of program content and a file system as defined in claim 1.

10

10. The system of claim 9 wherein said storage medium is a disk memory.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein said storage medium is a tape memory.

15

12. The system of claim 9 wherein said storage medium is an electronic memory.

A22a27